## Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

## Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (original): A computer-implemented method for replacing software of an active packet switching device without interfering with packet flow, said method comprising:

receiving a failover message at a currently active packet switching device (A);

transferring protocol state information from said packet switching device (A) to a currently inactive packet switching device (B); and

de-activating said packet switching device (A) and activating said packet switching device (B).

Claims 2-24 (canceled).